

PROGRAM PROMOTES RECYCLING, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN, BUILDS RECREATION AREAS

Washington, DC –U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) and the Umpqua Boys and Girls Club today won Nike's annual Reuse-A-Shoe Challenge. DeFazio and the Boys and Girls Club were competing against the other members of the Oregon Congressional delegation and a school in each district to collect the most worn out athletic and rubber soled shoes. The shoes are then ground up and recycled into recreation areas for kids. DeFazio, with the enthusiastic help of the Boys and Girls club and others throughout the district, smashed his old record and collected 2,137 shoes, putting even more of those stinky shoes to good use. The competition is sponsored by the Climate Group and Nike.

"I'm proud that the 4th congressional district has defended its title in this year's Reuse-a-Shoe Challenge and won for the third year in a row. Communities in Southwest Oregon really pitched in and helped us clear the hurdles in the competition this time, crushing last year's record by more than 1,000 pairs. We would never have been able to sprint to the finish and bring home the gold without such tremendous support," DeFazio said. "I would also like to thank Nike and the Climate Group for organizing this fantastic program again this year."

The reward, for being named champions of this illustrious competition is a donation of Nike sports equipment to the Boys and Girls Club of the Umpqua Valley. The club daily serves more than 300 Douglas County children. The win comes at a good time; Douglas County has been particularly hard hit by the economic recession and has an unemployment rate of nearly 16%.

“I especially want to thank the Umpqua Boys and Girls Club for being such a great partner in this year’s shoe-drive. The Club is a treasure in the community, providing kids with a safe afterschool environment to study, meet friends, play sports and build a positive sense of themselves. I know the equipment Nike donates will be put to good use!” DeFazio continued.

The donated shoes will be ground up and turned into resurfaced tracks. Nike co-sponsors this event to help promote physical fitness among kids.